



November 2023

## **THE CALL**

### **St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order** *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

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Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

#### **Meeting - 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, November 12, 2023**

- Donate and/or volunteer for a Giving Tree opportunities/find a lonely person to include in your holidays.
- Opening Prayer – Ritual, p. 35.
- Ongoing Formation – Jan Martin will lead a discussion on servant leadership.
- Fellowship
- Business Meeting
- Liturgy of the Hours – Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead in remembrance of our deceased Fraternity brothers and sisters  
*Hymn* - TBD (Please bring your hymnal and breviary)
- Closing Prayers – Ritual, p. 36.

#### **Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbll4T20rZz09>

Dial by your location: Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041 Passcode: 668951

#### **Minister's Notes**

Last month I had an intercession from Liturgy of the Hours resonating in my prayer time. I went back and copied it down so I could make sure I remembered it correctly as I examined it.

*We praise you O Lord our Savior, inspiration, and example for every martyr for loving us to the end,*

So, what part of this intercession grates enough that I can't let go of it? It is "*to the*

*end.*" What end? We are addressing our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has no beginning or end. Does this intercession make sense? Could it be a translation error-maybe it makes better sense in Latin.

The other intercessions from the Evening Prayer of the Common of Martyrs are addressed to or about martyrs shedding their blood, professing Christ with dying breath-to the end of their lives. Maybe I need to read it not as Christ loving me to His end but Christ loving me to my end.

The intercession stopped coming up in prayer. Maybe I hit on a correct interpretation (thank you Holy Spirit) What do you think? How do you read the intercession?

At our Last fraternity meeting I challenged you to contribute a nonperishable item (s) that says Thanksgiving to you to a food bank or your parish (if they are providing Thanksgiving meals). December usually is chock full of opportunities to be generous-not only in material donations but with your time too. Does the local giving tree (be it church, or community based) need help gathering, sorting, wrapping, distributing? Maybe you have a forgotten or lonely neighbor. If your schedule is too busy to pencil in time for them, invite them to share in the busyness. Come over and chat while I cook or come to dinner....., maybe be bold and invite them to Christmas Mass,

In December our schedule changes. The first Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, we will gather for the 8:30 Mass at St. Ann's. After

### Prayer Intentions

- Peace in the Holy Land!
- *Bill Wester, husband of Ann, who needs surgery*
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- *Virgina Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS*
- *Peace in Ukraine and protection for Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics there.*
- Denise, Ann Wester's sister-in-law for recovery after brain tumor surgery.
- *Clarissa, of STM Parish, for recovery from surgery and her son, Louis - depressed & not talking.*
- For the Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- *For those who will not pray for themselves and with no one to pray for them.*
- For all imprisoned Christians imprisoned for their belief in God and for religious freedom.
- For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.
- For our Holy Father Pope Francis.
- *For the health and well-being, and safety and*

Mass we will adjourn to the parish hall for coffee and fellowship. Jan Martin will lead a guided meditation on the Incarnation in the chapel. We will leave St. Ann's by noon. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Benders for a spaghetti lunch and discussion about future leadership in the fraternity. (Be there or risk being volunteered) We will finish between 2:30 and 3:00 for those with Saturday evening liturgical ministries. NO fraternity meeting on the second Sunday in December.

This week, for our November meeting, Jan plans to lead us in a discussion of servant leadership for our ongoing formation.

Have you checked bookcases at home for *To Live as Francis Lived?* Last month I got a lot of "that looks familiar." Copies are on sale at Amazon for \$19. If you want to buy a copy from the fraternity, I will have copies available for sale. If we run out, I can order more.

Pax et Bonum, Andrea

*protection of all priests.*

- For Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

### Professions

11/12/1999

Hilaria Escobal (Anthony of Padua)

11/13/2021

Patrick Birello (Patrick)

Bernadette Lozano (Pope Pius X)

### Birthdays of the Month

none

### Necrology

Joann T Collins – November 1997

Evelyn M Kaelin – November 1998

Felicisima (Fely) Guillerrmo – November 2015

Dcn Daniel Resendes – November 17, 2016

Sally Dimond – November 21, 2019

## Secretary's Note

This month we are remembering in a special way our deceased brothers and sisters in Fraternity. So, we will pray Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead instead of the Evening Prayer for Sunday. Likewise, November 24<sup>th</sup>, the day after Thanksgiving this year, is the Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order.

On p. 4 is the declaration of a special plenary indulgence to be given from December 8, 2023, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary to February 2, 2024, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple in honor of the eighth centenary of the Christmas at Greccio.

This month we also celebrate Blessed John Duns Scotus on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Though he is not formally a Doctor of the Church, one of his medieval nicknames was the Subtle Doctor. However, you will understand why I did not do a text box of his quotes if you do a web search for quotes by Duns Scotus. However, I am including Bl. John Duns Scotus' argument for the fittingness of the Immaculate Conception on p. 7.

Like my wife, I notice things that kind of grab me. The passage that I am reflecting on was an excerpt from near the end of *Gaudium et Spes*, the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* from Vatican II that I read in the Office of Readings on Monday. The passage was from paragraph 88 and it states:

Christians should cooperate willingly and wholeheartedly in establishing an international order that includes a genuine respect for all freedoms and amicable brotherhood between all. This is all the more pressing since the greater part of the world is still suffering from so much poverty that it is as if Christ Himself were crying out in these poor to beg the charity of the disciples. Do not let men, then, be scandalized because some countries with a majority of citizens who are counted as Christians have an abundance of wealth, whereas others are deprived of the necessities of life and are tormented with hunger, disease, and

every kind of misery. *The spirit of poverty and charity are the glory and witness of the Church of Christ....*

Those Christians are to be praised and supported, therefore, who volunteer their services to help other men and nations. Indeed, it is the duty of the whole People of God, following the word and example of the bishops, to alleviate as far as they are able the sufferings of the modern age. *They should do this too, as was the ancient custom in the Church, out of the substance of their goods, and not only out of what is superfluous.*

Reflecting particularly on the highlighted passages drove me back to our Rule. There, Article 11 states:

Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. Thus, in the spirit of "the Beatitudes", and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

The challenge for me and perhaps you as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, is how generous am I toward those in need? Our economic system is geared to have us save up for retirement instead of relying on pensions that typically do not exist anymore. Also, looming over us is the realization that as we age, our cost of living is likely to go up dramatically. How do we strike a balance between prudent stewardship and living the generosity to those in want that is called for in our Rule?

Peace and Good,  
Randy



# Conference of the Franciscan Family

Prot. N. 31/2023

Assisi, 04 October 2023

*Solemnity of the Seraphic Father Saint Francis*

To the attention of the  
Brothers and sisters of the Franciscan Family

## **Plenary indulgence on the occasion of the eighth centenary of "Christmas at Greccio" as experienced by Saint Francis of Assisi**

Dear brothers and sisters,


*may the Lord give you peace!* We write to you from Assisi, where we are gathered on the occasion of the celebrations for our Seraphic Father, to share with you the great gift and privilege that the Holy Father wanted to grant us on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of Christmas in Greccio. Here Saint Francis wanted to commemorate the birth of the Lord starting with a nativity scene, leading to the Eucharistic celebration, where Jesus Christ makes himself present in the bread and wine.


During this Centenary, on 17 April 2023, we addressed the following petition to the Holy Father: "*in order to promote the spiritual renewal of the faithful and increase the life of grace, we ask that the faithful receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions from 8 December 2023, the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to 2 February 2024, Feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ, by visiting the churches run by Franciscan families throughout the world and stopping in prayer in front of the nativity scenes set up there. Likewise, those who are sick or unable to participate physically can equally benefit from the gift of plenary indulgence, offering their sufferings to the Lord or carrying out practices of piety.*"

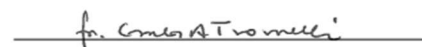
The Apostolic Penitentiary favorably welcomed the request, granting the right to announce it publicly. **Therefore, in all the churches entrusted to us for pastoral care, it will be possible for all the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, from 8 December 2023 to 2 February 2024.**


We ask you to share this "privilege" in all our locations which fits in well with the special relationship that was established between Saint Francis and the Church when he asked the Pope for the Indulgence for those who visited the Porziuncola; and we hope that it will be an opportunity for communion and spiritual renewal for every brother and sister in the entire Franciscan family. May the Lord guide your steps, and give you his mercy!

*Your General Ministers and President*

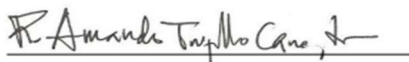
  
Francis Duncan OSF  
President IFC-TOR

  
Massimo Fusarelli OFM  
General Minister

  
Carlos Alberto Trovarelli OFMConv  
General Minister

  
Tibor Kauser OFS  
General Minister

  
Roberto Genuin OFMCap  
General Minister

  
Amando Trujillo Cano TOR  
General Minister

## Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

November 3

Bl. Helen Enselmini, Poor Clare Nun (1208-November 4, 1242)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-helen-enselmini.html>

November 4

St. Charles Borromeo, Secular Franciscan Cardinal, Protector of the Friars Minor (October 2, 1538-November 3, 1584) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Charles-Borromeo>

Bl. Teresa Manganiello, Third Order Secular (January 1, 1849-November 4, 1876) <https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-teresa-manganiello/>

November 6

Bls. Alfonso Lòpez, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs of the Civil War in Spain (Died 1934, 1936-1939)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs\\_of\\_the\\_Spanish\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_the_Spanish_Civil_War)

Bl. Marguerite de Lorraine, Poor Clare Nun (1463-November 2, 1521)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09655a.htm>

November 7

St. Didacus of Alcalá, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Observant (c. 1400-November 12, 1463)

<https://www.sdcatholic.org/diocese/bishops/saintdidacus.aspx>

Bl. Raynier of Arezzo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1304) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-raynier-of-arezzo.html>

November 8

Bl. John Duns Scotus, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1266-November 1308) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-duns-scotus.html>

November 9

Bl. Gabriel Ferretti, Priest, First Order (1385-November 12, 1456) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gabriel-ferretti.html>

November 11

Bl. Mary Crucifixa, Secular Franciscan Order (February 19, 1782-December 16, 1826)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-crucifixa.html>

November 12

Bl. Giovanni della Pace, Third Order Secular (1353-November 12, 1433)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-peace.html>

### St. Charles Borromeo Quotes

If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor.

We must meditate before, during and after everything we do. The prophet says: "I will pray, and then I will understand." This is the way we can easily overcome the countless difficulties we have to face day after day, which, after all, are part of our work. In meditation we find the strength to bring Christ to birth in ourselves and in others.

If a tiny spark of God's love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out. Keep the stove tightly shut so that it will not lose its heat and grow cold. In other words, avoid distractions as well as you can.

Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.

Stay quiet with God. Do not spend your time in useless chatter.

November 14

St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions, Croatian Friar, Order of Friars Minor; Deodat of Aquitaine, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo, Martyrs of Palestine (c. 1340-November 14, 1391)  
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-nicholas-tavelic-and-companions>

November 15

Bl. Mary of the Passion, Founder Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (May 21, 1839-November 15, 1904)  
[http://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/saints/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20021020\\_marie-passion\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20021020_marie-passion_en.html)

November 17

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Secular Franciscan, Patroness of the Third Order  
(July 7, 1207-November 17, 1231)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05389a.htm>

Bl. Jeanne de Signa, Third Order Regular, Hermit (1244-November 9, 1307)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-jane-of-signa.html>

November 18

Bl. Salome of Cracow, Third Order Secular (1201-November 17, 1268)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-salome-of-cracow.html>

November 19

St. Agnes of Assisi, Order of St. Clare; St. Clare's younger sister (c. 1197-November 16, 1253)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01213a.htm>

Bl. Salvatore Lilli and companions, Priest, First Order, Martyrs of Armenia  
(June 19, 1853-November 22, 1895)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/armenia-martyrs-bb>

November 20

Bl. Maria Milagros Ortells Gimeno, Capuchin Poor Clare, Martyr  
(November 29, 1882 - November 20, 1936)

<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/blessed-maria-milagros-ortelles-gimeno/>

Bls. Paschal Fortuño Almela and Companions, First Order friars, Martyrs of Spain, d. 1936  
[http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11\\_20](http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11_20)

November 21

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/presentation-of-mary>

November 24

Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order

<https://faustynka.livejournal.com/12261.html>

November 25

Bl. Elizabeth of Reute, Third Order Regular (November 25, 1386-November 25, 1420)

<https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/elizabeth-of-reute-blessed>

St. Humilis of Bisignano, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (August 26, 1582-November 26, 1637)

[https://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20020519\\_umile\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns_lit_doc_20020519_umile_en.html)

Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi (1880-1951) and Bl. Maria Corsini-Beltrame Quattrocchi (1884-1965)  
Third Order Secular, first Secular Franciscan couple beatified together

<http://www.savior.org/saints/corsini.htm>

November 26

St. Leonard de Port-Maurice, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (December 20, 1676 - November 26, 1751)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09178c.htm>

November 27

St. Francis Anthony Fasani, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual  
(August 6, 1681-November 29, 1742)

<https://www.americanneedsfatima.org/Saints-Heroes/st-francis-anthony-fasani.html>

November 28

St. James de la Marche, Priest, Order of Friars Minor  
(c. 1391-November 28, 1476)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-james-of-the-march.html>

November 29

All Saints of the Seraphic Order - We pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints -

<https://www.franciscans.org/single-post/2018/11/29/Feast-Day-of-All-the-Saints-of-the-Franciscan-Order>

November 30

Bl. Antoine Bonfadini, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1482)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-anthony-bonfadini.html>

December 2

Bl. Mary Angela Astorch, Capuchin Poor Clare (September 1, 1592 - December 2, 1665)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-maria-angela-astorch/>

Bl. Raphael Chylinski, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual  
(January 8, 1680/90 - December 2, 1742)

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=7637](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=7637)

December 4

Bl. François Galves, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, martyr (d. 1623)

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=3444](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=3444)

Bl. Pietro Tecelano, Third Order Secular (c. 1190-December 1289)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-pietro-tecelano/>

December 5

Bl. Peter of Sienna, Third Order Secular (d. December 4, 1289)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-of-siena.html>

December 7

St. Mary Joseph Rosello, Third Order Secular before founding another institute  
(1811-December 7, 1811)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-mary-joseph-rossello.html>

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation,  
Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord bearers

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-77>

December 9

Bl. Clara Isabella Fornari, Poor Clare Nun (June 25, 1697 - December 9, 1744)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-clara-isabella-fornari/>

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**ON THE FITTINGNESS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

by Bl. John Duns Scotus (b. 1266; d. 1308 A.D.),

Bl. John Duns Scotus (b. 1266; d. 1308 A.D.), Franciscan Priest and theologian was the first coherently to explain the Apostolic Faith in the Immaculate Conception as something entirely coherent with Christ's universal primacy and mediation. Since his time the Sacred Magisterium of the Church has solemnly defined this doctrine and declared it to belong to the deposit of the Faith which Christ entrusted to His Apostles.

Distinction 3; Question 1.

Was the Blessed Virgin conceived in sin? The answer is no, for as Augustine writes: "When sin is treated, there can be no inclusion of Mary in the discussion." And Anselm says: "It was fitting that the Virgin

should be resplendent with a purity greater than which none under God can be conceived." Purity here is to be taken in the sense of pure innocence under God, such as was in Christ.

The contrary, however, is commonly asserted on two grounds. First, the dignity of Her Son, who, as universal Redeemer, opened the gates of heaven. But if blessed Mary had not contracted original sin, She would not have needed the Redeemer, nor would He have opened the door for Her because it was never closed. For it is only closed because of sin, above all original sin.

In respect to this first ground, one can argue from the dignity of Her Son qua Redeemer, Reconciler, and Mediator, that She did not contract original sin.

For a most perfect mediator exercises the most perfect mediation possible in regard to some person for whom he mediates. Thus Christ exercised a most perfect act of mediation in regard to some person for whom He was Mediator. In regard to no person did He have a more exalted relationship than to Mary. Such, however, would not have been true had He not preserved Her from original sin.

The proof is threefold: in terms of God to whom He reconciles; in terms of the evil from which He frees; and in terms of the indebtedness of the person whom He reconciles.

First, no one absolutely and perfectly placates anyone about to be offended in any way unless he can avert the offense. For to placate only in view of remitting the offense once committed is not to placate most perfectly. But God does not undergo offense because of some experience in Himself, but only because of sin in the soul of a creature. Hence, Christ does not placate the Trinity most perfectly for the sin to be contracted by the sons of Adam if He does not prevent the Trinity from being offended in someone, and if the

soul of some child of Adam does not contract such a sin; and thus it is possible that a child of Adam not have such a sin.

Secondly, a most perfect mediator merits the removal of all punishment from the one whom he reconciles. Original sin, however, is a greater privation than the lack of the vision of God. Hence, if Christ most perfectly reconciles us to God, He merited that this most heavy of punishments be removed from some one person. This would have been His Mother.

Further, Christ is primarily our Redeemer and Reconciler from original sin rather than actual sin, for the need of the Incarnation and suffering of Christ is commonly ascribed to original sin. But He is also commonly assumed to be the perfect Mediator of at least one person, namely, Mary, whom He preserved from actual sin. Logically one should assume that He preserved Her from original sin as well.

Thirdly, a person reconciled is not absolutely indebted to his mediator, unless he receives from that mediator the greatest possible good. But this innocence, namely, preservation from the contracted sin or from the sin to be contracted, is available from the Mediator. Thus, no one would be absolutely indebted to Christ as Mediator unless preserved from original sin. It is a greater good to be preserved from evil than to fall into it and afterwards be freed from it. If Christ merited grace and glory for so many souls, who, for these gifts, are indebted to Christ as Mediator, why should no soul be His debtor for the gift of its innocence? And why, since the blessed Angels are innocent, should there be no human soul in heaven (except the human soul of Christ) who is innocent, that is, never in the state of original sin.





November 2023

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### **St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order** *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

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#### **Meeting - 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, November 12, 2023**

- Donate and/or volunteer for a Giving Tree opportunities/find a lonely person to include in your holidays.
- Opening Prayer – Ritual, p. 35.
- Ongoing Formation – Jan Martin will lead a discussion on servant leadership.
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Dial by your location: Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041 Passcode: 668951

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*We praise you O Lord our Savior, inspiration, and example for every martyr for loving us to the end,*

So, what part of this intercession grates enough that I can't let go of it? It is "*to the*

*end.*" What end? We are addressing our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has no beginning or end. Does this intercession make sense? Could it be a translation error-maybe it makes better sense in Latin.

The other intercessions from the Evening Prayer of the Common of Martyrs are addressed to or about martyrs shedding their blood, professing Christ with dying breath-to the end of their lives. Maybe I need to read it not as Christ loving me to His end but Christ loving me to my end.

The intercession stopped coming up in prayer. Maybe I hit on a correct interpretation (thank you Holy Spirit) What do you think? How do you read the intercession?

At our Last fraternity meeting I challenged you to contribute a nonperishable item (s) that says Thanksgiving to you to a food bank or your parish (if they are providing Thanksgiving meals). December usually is chock full of opportunities to be generous-not only in material donations but with your time too. Does the local giving tree (be it church, or community based) need help gathering, sorting, wrapping, distributing? Maybe you have a forgotten or lonely neighbor. If your schedule is too busy to pencil in time for them, invite them to share in the busyness. Come over and chat while I cook or come to dinner....., maybe be bold and invite them to Christmas Mass,

In December our schedule changes. The first Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, we will gather for the 8:30 Mass at St. Ann's. After

### Prayer Intentions

- Peace in the Holy Land!
- *Bill Wester, husband of Ann, who needs surgery*
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- *Virgina Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS*
- *Peace in Ukraine and protection for Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics there.*
- Denise, Ann Wester's sister-in-law for recovery after brain tumor surgery.
- *Clarissa, of STM Parish, for recovery from surgery and her son, Louis - depressed & not talking.*
- For the Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- *For those who will not pray for themselves and with no one to pray for them.*
- For all imprisoned Christians imprisoned for their belief in God and for religious freedom.
- For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.
- For our Holy Father Pope Francis.
- *For the health and well-being, and safety and*

Mass we will adjourn to the parish hall for coffee and fellowship. Jan Martin will lead a guided meditation on the Incarnation in the chapel. We will leave St. Ann's by noon. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Benders for a spaghetti lunch and discussion about future leadership in the fraternity. (Be there or risk being volunteered) We will finish between 2:30 and 3:00 for those with Saturday evening liturgical ministries. NO fraternity meeting on the second Sunday in December.

This week, for our November meeting, Jan plans to lead us in a discussion of servant leadership for our ongoing formation.

Have you checked bookcases at home for *To Live as Francis Lived?* Last month I got a lot of "that looks familiar." Copies are on sale at Amazon for \$19. If you want to buy a copy from the fraternity, I will have copies available for sale. If we run out, I can order more.

Pax et Bonum, Andrea

*protection of all priests.*

- For Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

### Professions

11/12/1999

Hilaria Escobal (Anthony of Padua)

11/13/2021

Patrick Birello (Patrick)

Bernadette Lozano (Pope Pius X)

### Birthdays of the Month

none

### Necrology

Joann T Collins – November 1997

Evelyn M Kaelin – November 1998

Felicisima (Fely) Guillerrmo – November 2015

Dcn Daniel Resendes – November 17, 2016

Sally Dimond – November 21, 2019

## Secretary's Note

This month we are remembering in a special way our deceased brothers and sisters in Fraternity. So, we will pray Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead instead of the Evening Prayer for Sunday. Likewise, November 24<sup>th</sup>, the day after Thanksgiving this year, is the Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order.

On p. 4 is the declaration of a special plenary indulgence to be given from December 8, 2023, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary to February 2, 2024, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple in honor of the eighth centenary of the Christmas at Greccio.

This month we also celebrate Blessed John Duns Scotus on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Though he is not formally a Doctor of the Church, one of his medieval nicknames was the Subtle Doctor. However, you will understand why I did not do a text box of his quotes if you do a web search for quotes by Duns Scotus. However, I am including Bl. John Duns Scotus' argument for the fittingness of the Immaculate Conception on p. 7.

Like my wife, I notice things that kind of grab me. The passage that I am reflecting on was an excerpt from near the end of *Gaudium et Spes*, the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* from Vatican II that I read in the Office of Readings on Monday. The passage was from paragraph 88 and it states:

Christians should cooperate willingly and wholeheartedly in establishing an international order that includes a genuine respect for all freedoms and amicable brotherhood between all. This is all the more pressing since the greater part of the world is still suffering from so much poverty that it is as if Christ Himself were crying out in these poor to beg the charity of the disciples. Do not let men, then, be scandalized because some countries with a majority of citizens who are counted as Christians have an abundance of wealth, whereas others are deprived of the necessities of life and are tormented with hunger, disease, and

every kind of misery. *The spirit of poverty and charity are the glory and witness of the Church of Christ....*

Those Christians are to be praised and supported, therefore, who volunteer their services to help other men and nations. Indeed, it is the duty of the whole People of God, following the word and example of the bishops, to alleviate as far as they are able the sufferings of the modern age. *They should do this too, as was the ancient custom in the Church, out of the substance of their goods, and not only out of what is superfluous.*

Reflecting particularly on the highlighted passages drove me back to our Rule. There, Article 11 states:

Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. Thus, in the spirit of "the Beatitudes", and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

The challenge for me and perhaps you as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, is how generous am I toward those in need? Our economic system is geared to have us save up for retirement instead of relying on pensions that typically do not exist anymore. Also, looming over us is the realization that as we age, our cost of living is likely to go up dramatically. How do we strike a balance between prudent stewardship and living the generosity to those in want that is called for in our Rule?

Peace and Good,  
Randy



# Conference of the Franciscan Family

Prot. N. 31/2023

Assisi, 04 October 2023

*Solemnity of the Seraphic Father Saint Francis*

To the attention of the  
Brothers and sisters of the Franciscan Family

## **Plenary indulgence on the occasion of the eighth centenary of "Christmas at Greccio" as experienced by Saint Francis of Assisi**

Dear brothers and sisters,


*may the Lord give you peace!* We write to you from Assisi, where we are gathered on the occasion of the celebrations for our Seraphic Father, to share with you the great gift and privilege that the Holy Father wanted to grant us on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of Christmas in Greccio. Here Saint Francis wanted to commemorate the birth of the Lord starting with a nativity scene, leading to the Eucharistic celebration, where Jesus Christ makes himself present in the bread and wine.


During this Centenary, on 17 April 2023, we addressed the following petition to the Holy Father: "*in order to promote the spiritual renewal of the faithful and increase the life of grace, we ask that the faithful receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions from 8 December 2023, the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to 2 February 2024, Feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ, by visiting the churches run by Franciscan families throughout the world and stopping in prayer in front of the nativity scenes set up there. Likewise, those who are sick or unable to participate physically can equally benefit from the gift of plenary indulgence, offering their sufferings to the Lord or carrying out practices of piety.*"

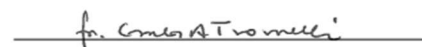
The Apostolic Penitentiary favorably welcomed the request, granting the right to announce it publicly. **Therefore, in all the churches entrusted to us for pastoral care, it will be possible for all the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, from 8 December 2023 to 2 February 2024.**


We ask you to share this "privilege" in all our locations which fits in well with the special relationship that was established between Saint Francis and the Church when he asked the Pope for the Indulgence for those who visited the Porziuncola; and we hope that it will be an opportunity for communion and spiritual renewal for every brother and sister in the entire Franciscan family. May the Lord guide your steps, and give you his mercy!

*Your General Ministers and President*

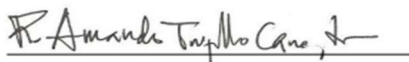
  
Francis Duncan OSF  
President IFC-TOR

  
Massimo Fusarelli OFM  
General Minister

  
Carlos Alberto Trovarelli OFMConv  
General Minister

  
Tibor Kauser OFS  
General Minister

  
Roberto Genuin OFMCap  
General Minister

  
Amando Trujillo Cano TOR  
General Minister

## Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

November 3

Bl. Helen Enselmini, Poor Clare Nun (1208-November 4, 1242)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-helen-enselmini.html>

November 4

St. Charles Borromeo, Secular Franciscan Cardinal, Protector of the Friars Minor (October 2, 1538-November 3, 1584) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Charles-Borromeo>

Bl. Teresa Manganiello, Third Order Secular (January 1, 1849-November 4, 1876) <https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-teresa-manganiello/>

November 6

Bls. Alfonso Lòpez, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs of the Civil War in Spain (Died 1934, 1936-1939)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs\\_of\\_the\\_Spanish\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_the_Spanish_Civil_War)

Bl. Marguerite de Lorraine, Poor Clare Nun (1463-November 2, 1521)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09655a.htm>

November 7

St. Didacus of Alcalá, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Observant (c. 1400-November 12, 1463)

<https://www.sdcatholic.org/diocese/bishops/saintdidacus.aspx>

Bl. Raynier of Arezzo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1304) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-raynier-of-arezzo.html>

November 8

Bl. John Duns Scotus, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1266-November 1308) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-duns-scotus.html>

November 9

Bl. Gabriel Ferretti, Priest, First Order (1385-November 12, 1456) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gabriel-ferretti.html>

November 11

Bl. Mary Crucifixa, Secular Franciscan Order (February 19, 1782-December 16, 1826)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-crucifixa.html>

November 12

Bl. Giovanni della Pace, Third Order Secular (1353-November 12, 1433)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-peace.html>

### St. Charles Borromeo Quotes

If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor.

We must meditate before, during and after everything we do. The prophet says: "I will pray, and then I will understand." This is the way we can easily overcome the countless difficulties we have to face day after day, which, after all, are part of our work. In meditation we find the strength to bring Christ to birth in ourselves and in others.

If a tiny spark of God's love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out. Keep the stove tightly shut so that it will not lose its heat and grow cold. In other words, avoid distractions as well as you can.

Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.

Stay quiet with God. Do not spend your time in useless chatter.

November 14

St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions, Croatian Friar, Order of Friars Minor; Deodat of Aquitaine, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo, Martyrs of Palestine (c. 1340-November 14, 1391)  
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-nicholas-tavelic-and-companions>

November 15

Bl. Mary of the Passion, Founder Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (May 21, 1839-November 15, 1904)  
[http://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/saints/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20021020\\_marie-passion\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20021020_marie-passion_en.html)

November 17

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Secular Franciscan, Patroness of the Third Order  
(July 7, 1207-November 17, 1231)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05389a.htm>

Bl. Jeanne de Signa, Third Order Regular, Hermit (1244-November 9, 1307)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-jane-of-signa.html>

November 18

Bl. Salome of Cracow, Third Order Secular (1201-November 17, 1268)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-salome-of-cracow.html>

November 19

St. Agnes of Assisi, Order of St. Clare; St. Clare's younger sister (c. 1197-November 16, 1253)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01213a.htm>

Bl. Salvatore Lilli and companions, Priest, First Order, Martyrs of Armenia  
(June 19, 1853-November 22, 1895)  
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/armenia-martyrs-bb>

November 20

Bl. Maria Milagros Ortells Gimeno, Capuchin Poor Clare, Martyr  
(November 29, 1882 - November 20, 1936)  
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/blessed-maria-milagros-ortelles-gimeno/>  
Bls. Paschal Fortuño Almela and Companions, First Order friars, Martyrs of Spain, d. 1936  
[http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11\\_20](http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11_20)

November 21

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/presentation-of-mary>

November 24

Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order  
<https://faustynka.livejournal.com/12261.html>

November 25

Bl. Elizabeth of Reute, Third Order Regular (November 25, 1386-November 25, 1420)  
<https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/elizabeth-of-reute-blessed>

St. Humilis of Bisignano, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (August 26, 1582-November 26, 1637)  
[https://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20020519\\_umile\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns_lit_doc_20020519_umile_en.html)

Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi (1880-1951) and Bl. Maria Corsini-Beltrame Quattrocchi (1884-1965)  
Third Order Secular, first Secular Franciscan couple beatified together  
<http://www.savior.org/saints/corsini.htm>

November 26

St. Leonard de Port-Maurice, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (December 20, 1676 - November 26, 1751)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09178c.htm>

November 27

St. Francis Anthony Fasani, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual  
(August 6, 1681-November 29, 1742)  
<https://www.americanneedsfatima.org/Saints-Heroes/st-francis-anthony-fasani.html>

November 28

St. James de la Marche, Priest, Order of Friars Minor  
(c. 1391-November 28, 1476)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-james-of-the-march.html>

November 29

All Saints of the Seraphic Order - We pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints -

<https://www.franciscans.org/single-post/2018/11/29/Feast-Day-of-All-the-Saints-of-the-Franciscan-Order>

November 30

Bl. Antoine Bonfadini, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1482)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-anthony-bonfadini.html>

December 2

Bl. Mary Angela Astorch, Capuchin Poor Clare (September 1, 1592 - December 2, 1665)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-maria-angela-astorch/>

Bl. Raphael Chylinski, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual  
(January 8, 1680/90 - December 2, 1742)

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=7637](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=7637)

December 4

Bl. François Galves, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, martyr (d. 1623)

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=3444](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=3444)

Bl. Pietro Tecelano, Third Order Secular (c. 1190-December 1289)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-pietro-tecelano/>

December 5

Bl. Peter of Sienna, Third Order Secular (d. December 4, 1289)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-of-siena.html>

December 7

St. Mary Joseph Rosello, Third Order Secular before founding another institute  
(1811-December 7, 1811)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-mary-joseph-rossello.html>

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation,  
Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord bearers

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-77>

December 9

Bl. Clara Isabella Fornari, Poor Clare Nun (June 25, 1697 - December 9, 1744)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-clara-isabella-fornari/>

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**ON THE FITTINGNESS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

by Bl. John Duns Scotus (b. 1266; d. 1308 A.D.),

Bl. John Duns Scotus (b. 1266; d. 1308 A.D.), Franciscan Priest and theologian was the first coherently to explain the Apostolic Faith in the Immaculate Conception as something entirely coherent with Christ's universal primacy and mediation. Since his time the Sacred Magisterium of the Church has solemnly defined this doctrine and declared it to belong to the deposit of the Faith which Christ entrusted to His Apostles.

Distinction 3; Question 1.

Was the Blessed Virgin conceived in sin? The answer is no, for as Augustine writes: "When sin is treated, there can be no inclusion of Mary in the discussion." And Anselm says: "It was fitting that the Virgin

should be resplendent with a purity greater than which none under God can be conceived." Purity here is to be taken in the sense of pure innocence under God, such as was in Christ.

The contrary, however, is commonly asserted on two grounds. First, the dignity of Her Son, who, as universal Redeemer, opened the gates of heaven. But if blessed Mary had not contracted original sin, She would not have needed the Redeemer, nor would He have opened the door for Her because it was never closed. For it is only closed because of sin, above all original sin.

In respect to this first ground, one can argue from the dignity of Her Son qua Redeemer, Reconciler, and Mediator, that She did not contract original sin.

For a most perfect mediator exercises the most perfect mediation possible in regard to some person for whom he mediates. Thus Christ exercised a most perfect act of mediation in regard to some person for whom He was Mediator. In regard to no person did He have a more exalted relationship than to Mary. Such, however, would not have been true had He not preserved Her from original sin.

The proof is threefold: in terms of God to whom He reconciles; in terms of the evil from which He frees; and in terms of the indebtedness of the person whom He reconciles.

First, no one absolutely and perfectly placates anyone about to be offended in any way unless he can avert the offense. For to placate only in view of remitting the offense once committed is not to placate most perfectly. But God does not undergo offense because of some experience in Himself, but only because of sin in the soul of a creature. Hence, Christ does not placate the Trinity most perfectly for the sin to be contracted by the sons of Adam if He does not prevent the Trinity from being offended in someone, and if the

soul of some child of Adam does not contract such a sin; and thus it is possible that a child of Adam not have such a sin.

Secondly, a most perfect mediator merits the removal of all punishment from the one whom he reconciles. Original sin, however, is a greater privation than the lack of the vision of God. Hence, if Christ most perfectly reconciles us to God, He merited that this most heavy of punishments be removed from some one person. This would have been His Mother.

Further, Christ is primarily our Redeemer and Reconciler from original sin rather than actual sin, for the need of the Incarnation and suffering of Christ is commonly ascribed to original sin. But He is also commonly assumed to be the perfect Mediator of at least one person, namely, Mary, whom He preserved from actual sin. Logically one should assume that He preserved Her from original sin as well.

Thirdly, a person reconciled is not absolutely indebted to his mediator, unless he receives from that mediator the greatest possible good. But this innocence, namely, preservation from the contracted sin or from the sin to be contracted, is available from the Mediator. Thus, no one would be absolutely indebted to Christ as Mediator unless preserved from original sin. It is a greater good to be preserved from evil than to fall into it and afterwards be freed from it. If Christ merited grace and glory for so many souls, who, for these gifts, are indebted to Christ as Mediator, why should no soul be His debtor for the gift of its innocence? And why, since the blessed Angels are innocent, should there be no human soul in heaven (except the human soul of Christ) who is innocent, that is, never in the state of original sin.





November 2023

## ***THE CALL***

### **St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order** *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

---

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

#### **Meeting - 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, November 12, 2023**

- Donate and/or volunteer for a Giving Tree opportunities/find a lonely person to include in your holidays.
- Opening Prayer – Ritual, p. 35.
- Ongoing Formation – Jan Martin will lead a discussion on servant leadership.
- Fellowship
- Business Meeting
- Liturgy of the Hours – Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead in remembrance of our deceased Fraternity brothers and sisters  
*Hymn* - TBD (Please bring your hymnal and breviary)
- Closing Prayers – Ritual, p. 36.

#### **Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbll4T20rZz09>

Dial by your location: Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041 Passcode: 668951

#### **Minister's Notes**

Last month I had an intercession from Liturgy of the Hours resonating in my prayer time. I went back and copied it down so I could make sure I remembered it correctly as I examined it.

*We praise you O Lord our Savior, inspiration, and example for every martyr for loving us to the end,*

So, what part of this intercession grates enough that I can't let go of it? It is "*to the*

*end.*" What end? We are addressing our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has no beginning or end. Does this intercession make sense? Could it be a translation error-maybe it makes better sense in Latin.

The other intercessions from the Evening Prayer of the Common of Martyrs are addressed to or about martyrs shedding their blood, professing Christ with dying breath-to the end of their lives. Maybe I need to read it not as Christ loving me to His end but Christ loving me to my end.

The intercession stopped coming up in prayer. Maybe I hit on a correct interpretation (thank you Holy Spirit) What do you think? How do you read the intercession?

At our Last fraternity meeting I challenged you to contribute a nonperishable item (s) that says Thanksgiving to you to a food bank or your parish (if they are providing Thanksgiving meals). December usually is chock full of opportunities to be generous-not only in material donations but with your time too. Does the local giving tree (be it church, or community based) need help gathering, sorting, wrapping, distributing? Maybe you have a forgotten or lonely neighbor. If your schedule is too busy to pencil in time for them, invite them to share in the busyness. Come over and chat while I cook or come to dinner....., maybe be bold and invite them to Christmas Mass,

In December our schedule changes. The first Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, we will gather for the 8:30 Mass at St. Ann's. After

### Prayer Intentions

- Peace in the Holy Land!
- *Bill Wester, husband of Ann, who needs surgery*
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- *Virgina Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS*
- *Peace in Ukraine and protection for Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics there.*
- Denise, Ann Wester's sister-in-law for recovery after brain tumor surgery.
- *Clarissa, of STM Parish, for recovery from surgery and her son, Louis - depressed & not talking.*
- For the Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- *For those who will not pray for themselves and with no one to pray for them.*
- For all imprisoned Christians imprisoned for their belief in God and for religious freedom.
- For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.
- For our Holy Father Pope Francis.
- *For the health and well-being, and safety and*

Mass we will adjourn to the parish hall for coffee and fellowship. Jan Martin will lead a guided meditation on the Incarnation in the chapel. We will leave St. Ann's by noon. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Benders for a spaghetti lunch and discussion about future leadership in the fraternity. (Be there or risk being volunteered) We will finish between 2:30 and 3:00 for those with Saturday evening liturgical ministries. NO fraternity meeting on the second Sunday in December.

This week, for our November meeting, Jan plans to lead us in a discussion of servant leadership for our ongoing formation.

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Pax et Bonum, Andrea

*protection of all priests.*

- For Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

### Professions

11/12/1999

Hilaria Escobal (Anthony of Padua)

11/13/2021

Patrick Birello (Patrick)

Bernadette Lozano (Pope Pius X)

### Birthdays of the Month

none

### Necrology

Joann T Collins – November 1997

Evelyn M Kaelin – November 1998

Felicisima (Fely) Guillerrmo – November 2015

Dcn Daniel Resendes – November 17, 2016

Sally Dimond – November 21, 2019

## Secretary's Note

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Christians should cooperate willingly and wholeheartedly in establishing an international order that includes a genuine respect for all freedoms and amicable brotherhood between all. This is all the more pressing since the greater part of the world is still suffering from so much poverty that it is as if Christ Himself were crying out in these poor to beg the charity of the disciples. Do not let men, then, be scandalized because some countries with a majority of citizens who are counted as Christians have an abundance of wealth, whereas others are deprived of the necessities of life and are tormented with hunger, disease, and

every kind of misery. *The spirit of poverty and charity are the glory and witness of the Church of Christ....*

Those Christians are to be praised and supported, therefore, who volunteer their services to help other men and nations. Indeed, it is the duty of the whole People of God, following the word and example of the bishops, to alleviate as far as they are able the sufferings of the modern age. *They should do this too, as was the ancient custom in the Church, out of the substance of their goods, and not only out of what is superfluous.*

Reflecting particularly on the highlighted passages drove me back to our Rule. There, Article 11 states:

Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. Thus, in the spirit of "the Beatitudes", and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

The challenge for me and perhaps you as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, is how generous am I toward those in need? Our economic system is geared to have us save up for retirement instead of relying on pensions that typically do not exist anymore. Also, looming over us is the realization that as we age, our cost of living is likely to go up dramatically. How do we strike a balance between prudent stewardship and living the generosity to those in want that is called for in our Rule?

Peace and Good,  
Randy



# Conference of the Franciscan Family

Prot. N. 31/2023

Assisi, 04 October 2023

*Solemnity of the Seraphic Father Saint Francis*

To the attention of the  
Brothers and sisters of the Franciscan Family

## **Plenary indulgence on the occasion of the eighth centenary of "Christmas at Greccio" as experienced by Saint Francis of Assisi**

Dear brothers and sisters,


*may the Lord give you peace!* We write to you from Assisi, where we are gathered on the occasion of the celebrations for our Seraphic Father, to share with you the great gift and privilege that the Holy Father wanted to grant us on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of Christmas in Greccio. Here Saint Francis wanted to commemorate the birth of the Lord starting with a nativity scene, leading to the Eucharistic celebration, where Jesus Christ makes himself present in the bread and wine.


During this Centenary, on 17 April 2023, we addressed the following petition to the Holy Father: "*in order to promote the spiritual renewal of the faithful and increase the life of grace, we ask that the faithful receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions from 8 December 2023, the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to 2 February 2024, Feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ, by visiting the churches run by Franciscan families throughout the world and stopping in prayer in front of the nativity scenes set up there. Likewise, those who are sick or unable to participate physically can equally benefit from the gift of plenary indulgence, offering their sufferings to the Lord or carrying out practices of piety.*"

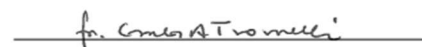
The Apostolic Penitentiary favorably welcomed the request, granting the right to announce it publicly. **Therefore, in all the churches entrusted to us for pastoral care, it will be possible for all the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, from 8 December 2023 to 2 February 2024.**


We ask you to share this "privilege" in all our locations which fits in well with the special relationship that was established between Saint Francis and the Church when he asked the Pope for the Indulgence for those who visited the Porziuncola; and we hope that it will be an opportunity for communion and spiritual renewal for every brother and sister in the entire Franciscan family. May the Lord guide your steps, and give you his mercy!

*Your General Ministers and President*

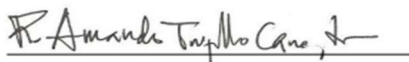
  
Frances Duncan OSF  
President IFC-TOR

  
Massimo Fusarelli OFM  
General Minister

  
Carlos Alberto Trovarelli OFMConv  
General Minister

  
Tibor Kauser OFS  
General Minister

  
Roberto Genuin OFMCap  
General Minister

  
Amando Trujillo Cano TOR  
General Minister

## Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

November 3

Bl. Helen Enselmini, Poor Clare Nun (1208-November 4, 1242)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-helen-enselmini.html>

November 4

St. Charles Borromeo, Secular Franciscan Cardinal, Protector of the Friars Minor (October 2, 1538-November 3, 1584) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Charles-Borromeo>

Bl. Teresa Manganiello, Third Order Secular (January 1, 1849-November 4, 1876) <https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-teresa-manganiello/>

November 6

Bls. Alfonso Lòpez, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs of the Civil War in Spain (Died 1934, 1936-1939)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs\\_of\\_the\\_Spanish\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_the_Spanish_Civil_War)

Bl. Marguerite de Lorraine, Poor Clare Nun (1463-November 2, 1521)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09655a.htm>

November 7

St. Didacus of Alcalá, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Observant (c. 1400-November 12, 1463)

<https://www.sdcatholic.org/diocese/bishops/saintdidacus.aspx>

Bl. Raynier of Arezzo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1304) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-raynier-of-arezzo.html>

November 8

Bl. John Duns Scotus, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1266-November 1308) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-duns-scotus.html>

November 9

Bl. Gabriel Ferretti, Priest, First Order (1385-November 12, 1456) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gabriel-ferretti.html>

November 11

Bl. Mary Crucifixa, Secular Franciscan Order (February 19, 1782-December 16, 1826)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-crucifixa.html>

November 12

Bl. Giovanni della Pace, Third Order Secular (1353-November 12, 1433)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-peace.html>

### St. Charles Borromeo Quotes

If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor.

We must meditate before, during and after everything we do. The prophet says: "I will pray, and then I will understand." This is the way we can easily overcome the countless difficulties we have to face day after day, which, after all, are part of our work. In meditation we find the strength to bring Christ to birth in ourselves and in others.

If a tiny spark of God's love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out. Keep the stove tightly shut so that it will not lose its heat and grow cold. In other words, avoid distractions as well as you can.

Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.

Stay quiet with God. Do not spend your time in useless chatter.

November 14

St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions, Croatian Friar, Order of Friars Minor; Deodat of Aquitaine, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo, Martyrs of Palestine (c. 1340-November 14, 1391)  
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-nicholas-tavelic-and-companions>

November 15

Bl. Mary of the Passion, Founder Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (May 21, 1839-November 15, 1904)  
[http://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/saints/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20021020\\_marie-passion\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20021020_marie-passion_en.html)

November 17

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Secular Franciscan, Patroness of the Third Order  
(July 7, 1207-November 17, 1231)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05389a.htm>

Bl. Jeanne de Signa, Third Order Regular, Hermit (1244-November 9, 1307)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-jane-of-signa.html>

November 18

Bl. Salome of Cracow, Third Order Secular (1201-November 17, 1268)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-salome-of-cracow.html>

November 19

St. Agnes of Assisi, Order of St. Clare; St. Clare's younger sister (c. 1197-November 16, 1253)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01213a.htm>

Bl. Salvatore Lilli and companions, Priest, First Order, Martyrs of Armenia  
(June 19, 1853-November 22, 1895)  
<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/armenia-martyrs-bb>

November 20

Bl. Maria Milagros Ortells Gimeno, Capuchin Poor Clare, Martyr  
(November 29, 1882 - November 20, 1936)  
<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/blessed-maria-milagros-ortelles-gimeno/>  
Bls. Paschal Fortuño Almela and Companions, First Order friars, Martyrs of Spain, d. 1936  
[http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11\\_20](http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11_20)

November 21

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/presentation-of-mary>

November 24

Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order  
<https://faustynka.livejournal.com/12261.html>

November 25

Bl. Elizabeth of Reute, Third Order Regular (November 25, 1386-November 25, 1420)  
<https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/elizabeth-of-reute-blessed>

St. Humilis of Bisignano, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (August 26, 1582-November 26, 1637)  
[https://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20020519\\_umile\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns_lit_doc_20020519_umile_en.html)

Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi (1880-1951) and Bl. Maria Corsini-Beltrame Quattrocchi (1884-1965)  
Third Order Secular, first Secular Franciscan couple beatified together  
<http://www.savior.org/saints/corsini.htm>

November 26

St. Leonard de Port-Maurice, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (December 20, 1676 - November 26, 1751)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09178c.htm>

November 27

St. Francis Anthony Fasani, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual  
(August 6, 1681-November 29, 1742)  
<https://www.americanneedsfatima.org/Saints-Heroes/st-francis-anthony-fasani.html>

November 28

St. James de la Marche, Priest, Order of Friars Minor  
(c. 1391-November 28, 1476)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-james-of-the-march.html>

November 29

All Saints of the Seraphic Order - We pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints -

<https://www.franciscans.org/single-post/2018/11/29/Feast-Day-of-All-the-Saints-of-the-Franciscan-Order>

November 30

Bl. Antoine Bonfadini, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1482)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-anthony-bonfadini.html>

December 2

Bl. Mary Angela Astorch, Capuchin Poor Clare (September 1, 1592 - December 2, 1665)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-maria-angela-astorch/>

Bl. Raphael Chylinski, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual  
(January 8, 1680/90 - December 2, 1742)

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=7637](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=7637)

December 4

Bl. François Galves, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, martyr (d. 1623)

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=3444](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=3444)

Bl. Pietro Tecelano, Third Order Secular (c. 1190-December 1289)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-pietro-tecelano/>

December 5

Bl. Peter of Sienna, Third Order Secular (d. December 4, 1289)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-of-siena.html>

December 7

St. Mary Joseph Rosello, Third Order Secular before founding another institute  
(1811-December 7, 1811)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-mary-joseph-rossello.html>

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation,  
Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord bearers

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-77>

December 9

Bl. Clara Isabella Fornari, Poor Clare Nun (June 25, 1697 - December 9, 1744)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-clara-isabella-fornari/>

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**ON THE FITTINGNESS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

by Bl. John Duns Scotus (b. 1266; d. 1308 A.D.),

Bl. John Duns Scotus (b. 1266; d. 1308 A.D.), Franciscan Priest and theologian was the first coherently to explain the Apostolic Faith in the Immaculate Conception as something entirely coherent with Christ's universal primacy and mediation. Since his time the Sacred Magisterium of the Church has solemnly defined this doctrine and declared it to belong to the deposit of the Faith which Christ entrusted to His Apostles.

Distinction 3; Question 1.

Was the Blessed Virgin conceived in sin? The answer is no, for as Augustine writes: "When sin is treated, there can be no inclusion of Mary in the discussion." And Anselm says: "It was fitting that the Virgin

should be resplendent with a purity greater than which none under God can be conceived." Purity here is to be taken in the sense of pure innocence under God, such as was in Christ.

The contrary, however, is commonly asserted on two grounds. First, the dignity of Her Son, who, as universal Redeemer, opened the gates of heaven. But if blessed Mary had not contracted original sin, She would not have needed the Redeemer, nor would He have opened the door for Her because it was never closed. For it is only closed because of sin, above all original sin.

In respect to this first ground, one can argue from the dignity of Her Son qua Redeemer, Reconciler, and Mediator, that She did not contract original sin.

For a most perfect mediator exercises the most perfect mediation possible in regard to some person for whom he mediates. Thus Christ exercised a most perfect act of mediation in regard to some person for whom He was Mediator. In regard to no person did He have a more exalted relationship than to Mary. Such, however, would not have been true had He not preserved Her from original sin.

The proof is threefold: in terms of God to whom He reconciles; in terms of the evil from which He frees; and in terms of the indebtedness of the person whom He reconciles.

First, no one absolutely and perfectly placates anyone about to be offended in any way unless he can avert the offense. For to placate only in view of remitting the offense once committed is not to placate most perfectly. But God does not undergo offense because of some experience in Himself, but only because of sin in the soul of a creature. Hence, Christ does not placate the Trinity most perfectly for the sin to be contracted by the sons of Adam if He does not prevent the Trinity from being offended in someone, and if the

soul of some child of Adam does not contract such a sin; and thus it is possible that a child of Adam not have such a sin.

Secondly, a most perfect mediator merits the removal of all punishment from the one whom he reconciles. Original sin, however, is a greater privation than the lack of the vision of God. Hence, if Christ most perfectly reconciles us to God, He merited that this most heavy of punishments be removed from some one person. This would have been His Mother.

Further, Christ is primarily our Redeemer and Reconciler from original sin rather than actual sin, for the need of the Incarnation and suffering of Christ is commonly ascribed to original sin. But He is also commonly assumed to be the perfect Mediator of at least one person, namely, Mary, whom He preserved from actual sin. Logically one should assume that He preserved Her from original sin as well.

Thirdly, a person reconciled is not absolutely indebted to his mediator, unless he receives from that mediator the greatest possible good. But this innocence, namely, preservation from the contracted sin or from the sin to be contracted, is available from the Mediator. Thus, no one would be absolutely indebted to Christ as Mediator unless preserved from original sin. It is a greater good to be preserved from evil than to fall into it and afterwards be freed from it. If Christ merited grace and glory for so many souls, who, for these gifts, are indebted to Christ as Mediator, why should no soul be His debtor for the gift of its innocence? And why, since the blessed Angels are innocent, should there be no human soul in heaven (except the human soul of Christ) who is innocent, that is, never in the state of original sin.





November 2023

## **THE CALL**

### **St. Thomas More Fraternity, Secular Franciscan Order** *From Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel*

---

Minister: Andrea Bender, OFS; Vice Minister: Sita Chakrawarti, OFS; Secretary: Thomas Bender, OFS; Treasurer: Ann Wester, OFS; Formation Director: Janette Martin, OFS; Councilors-at-Large: Ann Corro, OFS, Michael Landrigan, OFS

#### **Meeting - 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, November 12, 2023**

- Donate and/or volunteer for a Giving Tree opportunities/find a lonely person to include in your holidays.
- Opening Prayer – Ritual, p. 35.
- Ongoing Formation – Jan Martin will lead a discussion on servant leadership.
- Fellowship
- Business Meeting
- Liturgy of the Hours – Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead in remembrance of our deceased Fraternity brothers and sisters  
*Hymn - TBD (Please bring your hymnal and breviary)*
- Closing Prayers – Ritual, p. 36.

#### **Remote Access to the Monthly Meeting Info**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85418000041?pwd=d0pFSDREaDJmdjZpNWlqbll4T20rZz09>

Dial by your location: Phone: +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 854 1800 0041 Passcode: 668951

#### **Minister's Notes**

Last month I had an intercession from Liturgy of the Hours resonating in my prayer time. I went back and copied it down so I could make sure I remembered it correctly as I examined it.

*We praise you O Lord our Savior, inspiration, and example for every martyr for loving us to the end,*

So, what part of this intercession grates enough that I can't let go of it? It is "*to the*

*end.*" What end? We are addressing our Lord, Jesus Christ, who has no beginning or end. Does this intercession make sense? Could it be a translation error-maybe it makes better sense in Latin.

The other intercessions from the Evening Prayer of the Common of Martyrs are addressed to or about martyrs shedding their blood, professing Christ with dying breath-to the end of their lives. Maybe I need to read it not as Christ loving me to His end but Christ loving me to my end.

The intercession stopped coming up in prayer. Maybe I hit on a correct interpretation (thank you Holy Spirit) What do you think? How do you read the intercession?

At our Last fraternity meeting I challenged you to contribute a nonperishable item (s) that says Thanksgiving to you to a food bank or your parish (if they are providing Thanksgiving meals). December usually is chock full of opportunities to be generous-not only in material donations but with your time too. Does the local giving tree (be it church, or community based) need help gathering, sorting, wrapping, distributing? Maybe you have a forgotten or lonely neighbor. If your schedule is too busy to pencil in time for them, invite them to share in the busyness. Come over and chat while I cook or come to dinner....., maybe be bold and invite them to Christmas Mass,

In December our schedule changes. The first Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, we will gather for the 8:30 Mass at St. Ann's. After

### Prayer Intentions

- Peace in the Holy Land!
- *Bill Wester, husband of Ann, who needs surgery*
- Grace Coipuram, OFS
- *Virgina Roccapriore, widow of Joseph Roccapriore, OFS*
- *Peace in Ukraine and protection for Ukrainian and Ruthenian Rite Catholics there.*
- Denise, Ann Wester's sister-in-law for recovery after brain tumor surgery.
- *Clarissa, of STM Parish, for recovery from surgery and her son, Louis - depressed & not talking.*
- For the Poor Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- *For those who will not pray for themselves and with no one to pray for them.*
- For all imprisoned Christians imprisoned for their belief in God and for religious freedom.
- For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless.
- For our Holy Father Pope Francis.
- *For the health and well-being, and safety and*

Mass we will adjourn to the parish hall for coffee and fellowship. Jan Martin will lead a guided meditation on the Incarnation in the chapel. We will leave St. Ann's by noon. Everyone is encouraged to come to the Benders for a spaghetti lunch and discussion about future leadership in the fraternity. (Be there or risk being volunteered) We will finish between 2:30 and 3:00 for those with Saturday evening liturgical ministries. NO fraternity meeting on the second Sunday in December.

This week, for our November meeting, Jan plans to lead us in a discussion of servant leadership for our ongoing formation.

Have you checked bookcases at home for *To Live as Francis Lived?* Last month I got a lot of "that looks familiar." Copies are on sale at Amazon for \$19. If you want to buy a copy from the fraternity, I will have copies available for sale. If we run out, I can order more.

Pax et Bonum, Andrea

*protection of all priests.*

- For Marie, cousin of Anne Pastorkovich, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

### Professions

11/12/1999

Hilaria Escobal (Anthony of Padua)

11/13/2021

Patrick Birello (Patrick)

Bernadette Lozano (Pope Pius X)

### Birthdays of the Month

none

### Necrology

Joann T Collins – November 1997

Evelyn M Kaelin – November 1998

Felicisima (Fely) Guillerrmo – November 2015

Dcn Daniel Resendes – November 17, 2016

Sally Dimond – November 21, 2019

## Secretary's Note

This month we are remembering in a special way our deceased brothers and sisters in Fraternity. So, we will pray Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead instead of the Evening Prayer for Sunday. Likewise, November 24<sup>th</sup>, the day after Thanksgiving this year, is the Commemoration of all the Deceased of the Seraphic Order.

On p. 4 is the declaration of a special plenary indulgence to be given from December 8, 2023, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary to February 2, 2024, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple in honor of the eighth centenary of the Christmas at Greccio.

This month we also celebrate Blessed John Duns Scotus on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Though he is not formally a Doctor of the Church, one of his medieval nicknames was the Subtle Doctor. However, you will understand why I did not do a text box of his quotes if you do a web search for quotes by Duns Scotus. However, I am including Bl. John Duns Scotus' argument for the fittingness of the Immaculate Conception on p. 7.

Like my wife, I notice things that kind of grab me. The passage that I am reflecting on was an excerpt from near the end of *Gaudium et Spes*, the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* from Vatican II that I read in the Office of Readings on Monday. The passage was from paragraph 88 and it states:

Christians should cooperate willingly and wholeheartedly in establishing an international order that includes a genuine respect for all freedoms and amicable brotherhood between all. This is all the more pressing since the greater part of the world is still suffering from so much poverty that it is as if Christ Himself were crying out in these poor to beg the charity of the disciples. Do not let men, then, be scandalized because some countries with a majority of citizens who are counted as Christians have an abundance of wealth, whereas others are deprived of the necessities of life and are tormented with hunger, disease, and

every kind of misery. *The spirit of poverty and charity are the glory and witness of the Church of Christ....*

Those Christians are to be praised and supported, therefore, who volunteer their services to help other men and nations. Indeed, it is the duty of the whole People of God, following the word and example of the bishops, to alleviate as far as they are able the sufferings of the modern age. *They should do this too, as was the ancient custom in the Church, out of the substance of their goods, and not only out of what is superfluous.*

Reflecting particularly on the highlighted passages drove me back to our Rule. There, Article 11 states:

Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. Let the Secular Franciscans seek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. Let them be mindful that according to the gospel they are stewards of the goods received for the benefit of God's children. Thus, in the spirit of "the Beatitudes", and as pilgrims and strangers on their way to the home of the Father, they should strive to purify their hearts from every tendency and yearning for possession and power.

The challenge for me and perhaps you as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, is how generous am I toward those in need? Our economic system is geared to have us save up for retirement instead of relying on pensions that typically do not exist anymore. Also, looming over us is the realization that as we age, our cost of living is likely to go up dramatically. How do we strike a balance between prudent stewardship and living the generosity to those in want that is called for in our Rule?

Peace and Good,  
Randy



# Conference of the Franciscan Family

Prot. N. 31/2023

Assisi, 04 October 2023

*Solemnity of the Seraphic Father Saint Francis*

To the attention of the  
Brothers and sisters of the Franciscan Family

## Plenary indulgence on the occasion of the eighth centenary of "Christmas at Greccio" as experienced by Saint Francis of Assisi

Dear brothers and sisters,


*may the Lord give you peace!* We write to you from Assisi, where we are gathered on the occasion of the celebrations for our Seraphic Father, to share with you the great gift and privilege that the Holy Father wanted to grant us on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of Christmas in Greccio. Here Saint Francis wanted to commemorate the birth of the Lord starting with a nativity scene, leading to the Eucharistic celebration, where Jesus Christ makes himself present in the bread and wine.


During this Centenary, on 17 April 2023, we addressed the following petition to the Holy Father: "*in order to promote the spiritual renewal of the faithful and increase the life of grace, we ask that the faithful receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions from 8 December 2023, the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to 2 February 2024, Feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ, by visiting the churches run by Franciscan families throughout the world and stopping in prayer in front of the nativity scenes set up there. Likewise, those who are sick or unable to participate physically can equally benefit from the gift of plenary indulgence, offering their sufferings to the Lord or carrying out practices of piety.*"

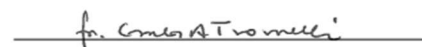
The Apostolic Penitentiary favorably welcomed the request, granting the right to announce it publicly. **Therefore, in all the churches entrusted to us for pastoral care, it will be possible for all the faithful to receive a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, from 8 December 2023 to 2 February 2024.**


We ask you to share this "privilege" in all our locations which fits in well with the special relationship that was established between Saint Francis and the Church when he asked the Pope for the Indulgence for those who visited the Porziuncola; and we hope that it will be an opportunity for communion and spiritual renewal for every brother and sister in the entire Franciscan family. May the Lord guide your steps, and give you his mercy!

*Your General Ministers and President*

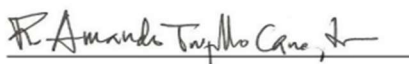
  
Francis Duncan OSF  
President IFC-TOR

  
Massimo Fusarelli OFM  
General Minister

  
Carlos Alberto Trovarelli OFMConv  
General Minister

  
Tibor Kauser OFS  
General Minister

  
Roberto Genuin OFMCap  
General Minister

  
Amando Trujillo Cano TOR  
General Minister

## Saints of the Month

<https://www.secularfranciscansusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Franciscan-Saints-2022-1-Catalog-by-Mary-Lou-Coffman-OFS.pdf>

November 3

Bl. Helen Enselmini, Poor Clare Nun (1208-November 4, 1242)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-helen-enselmini.html>

November 4

St. Charles Borromeo, Secular Franciscan Cardinal, Protector of the Friars Minor (October 2, 1538-November 3, 1584) <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Charles-Borromeo>

Bl. Teresa Manganiello, Third Order Secular (January 1, 1849-November 4, 1876) <https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-teresa-manganiello/>

November 6

Bls. Alfonso López, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs of the Civil War in Spain (Died 1934, 1936-1939)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs\\_of\\_the\\_Spanish\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martyrs_of_the_Spanish_Civil_War)

Bl. Marguerite de Lorraine, Poor Clare Nun (1463-November 2, 1521)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09655a.htm>

November 7

St. Didacus of Alcalá, Friar, Order of Friars Minor, Observant (c. 1400-November 12, 1463)

<https://www.sdcatholic.org/diocese/bishops/saintdidacus.aspx>

Bl. Raynier of Arezzo, Friar, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1304) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-raynier-of-arezzo.html>

November 8

Bl. John Duns Scotus, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (c. 1266-November 1308) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-duns-scotus.html>

November 9

Bl. Gabriel Ferretti, Priest, First Order (1385-November 12, 1456) <https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-gabriel-ferretti.html>

November 11

Bl. Mary Crucifixa, Secular Franciscan Order (February 19, 1782-December 16, 1826)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-mary-crucifixa.html>

November 12

Bl. Giovanni della Pace, Third Order Secular (1353-November 12, 1433)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-john-of-peace.html>

### St. Charles Borromeo Quotes

If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor.

We must meditate before, during and after everything we do. The prophet says: "I will pray, and then I will understand." This is the way we can easily overcome the countless difficulties we have to face day after day, which, after all, are part of our work. In meditation we find the strength to bring Christ to birth in ourselves and in others.

If a tiny spark of God's love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out. Keep the stove tightly shut so that it will not lose its heat and grow cold. In other words, avoid distractions as well as you can.

Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.

Stay quiet with God. Do not spend your time in useless chatter.

November 14

St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions, Croatian Friar, Order of Friars Minor; Deodat of Aquitaine, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo, Martyrs of Palestine (c. 1340-November 14, 1391)  
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-nicholas-tavelic-and-companions>

November 15

Bl. Mary of the Passion, Founder Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (May 21, 1839-November 15, 1904)  
[http://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/saints/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20021020\\_marie-passion\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20021020_marie-passion_en.html)

November 17

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Secular Franciscan, Patroness of the Third Order  
(July 7, 1207-November 17, 1231)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05389a.htm>

Bl. Jeanne de Signa, Third Order Regular, Hermit (1244-November 9, 1307)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-jane-of-signa.html>

November 18

Bl. Salome of Cracow, Third Order Secular (1201-November 17, 1268)  
<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-salome-of-cracow.html>

November 19

St. Agnes of Assisi, Order of St. Clare; St. Clare's younger sister (c. 1197-November 16, 1253)  
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01213a.htm>

Bl. Salvatore Lilli and companions, Priest, First Order, Martyrs of Armenia  
(June 19, 1853-November 22, 1895)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/armenia-martyrs-bb>

November 20

Bl. Maria Milagros Ortells Gimeno, Capuchin Poor Clare, Martyr  
(November 29, 1882 - November 20, 1936)

<https://www.capdox.capuchin.org.au/saints-blesseds/blessed-maria-milagros-ortelles-gimeno/>

Bls. Paschal Fortuño Almela and Companions, First Order friars, Martyrs of Spain, d. 1936  
[http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11\\_20](http://www.franciscans.ie/franciscan-saints-2/#11_20)

November 21

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/presentation-of-mary>

November 24

Commemoration of All the Deceased of the Seraphic Order

<https://faustynka.livejournal.com/12261.html>

November 25

Bl. Elizabeth of Reute, Third Order Regular (November 25, 1386-November 25, 1420)

<https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/elizabeth-of-reute-blessed>

St. Humilis of Bisignano, Religious, Order of Friars Minor (August 26, 1582-November 26, 1637)

[https://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns\\_lit\\_doc\\_20020519\\_umile\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/2002/documents/ns_lit_doc_20020519_umile_en.html)

Bl. Louis Beltrame Quattrocchi (1880-1951) and Bl. Maria Corsini-Beltrame Quattrocchi (1884-1965)  
Third Order Secular, first Secular Franciscan couple beatified together

<http://www.savior.org/saints/corsini.htm>

November 26

St. Leonard de Port-Maurice, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (December 20, 1676 - November 26, 1751)

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09178c.htm>

November 27

St. Francis Anthony Fasani, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual  
(August 6, 1681-November 29, 1742)

<https://www.americanneedsfatima.org/Saints-Heroes/st-francis-anthony-fasani.html>

November 28

St. James de la Marche, Priest, Order of Friars Minor  
(c. 1391-November 28, 1476)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-james-of-the-march.html>

November 29

All Saints of the Seraphic Order - We pray the Franciscan Litany of the Saints -

<https://www.franciscans.org/single-post/2018/11/29/Feast-Day-of-All-the-Saints-of-the-Franciscan-Order>

November 30

Bl. Antoine Bonfadini, Priest, Order of Friars Minor (d. 1482)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-anthony-bonfadini.html>

December 2

Bl. Mary Angela Astorch, Capuchin Poor Clare (September 1, 1592 - December 2, 1665)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-maria-angela-astorch/>

Bl. Raphael Chylinski, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, Conventual  
(January 8, 1680/90 - December 2, 1742)

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=7637](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=7637)

December 4

Bl. François Galves, Priest, Order of Friars Minor, martyr (d. 1623)

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=3444](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=3444)

Bl. Pietro Tecelano, Third Order Secular (c. 1190-December 1289)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-pietro-tecelano/>

December 5

Bl. Peter of Sienna, Third Order Secular (d. December 4, 1289)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/blessed-peter-of-siena.html>

December 7

St. Mary Joseph Rosello, Third Order Secular before founding another institute  
(1811-December 7, 1811)

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/saint-mary-joseph-rossello.html>

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Seraphic Order, Holy Day of Obligation,  
Plenary Indulgence for tertiaries and cord bearers

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception-of-the-blessed-virgin-77>

December 9

Bl. Clara Isabella Fornari, Poor Clare Nun (June 25, 1697 - December 9, 1744)

<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-clara-isabella-fornari/>

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**ON THE FITTINGNESS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

by Bl. John Duns Scotus (b. 1266; d. 1308 A.D.),

Bl. John Duns Scotus (b. 1266; d. 1308 A.D.), Franciscan Priest and theologian was the first coherently to explain the Apostolic Faith in the Immaculate Conception as something entirely coherent with Christ's universal primacy and mediation. Since his time the Sacred Magisterium of the Church has solemnly defined this doctrine and declared it to belong to the deposit of the Faith which Christ entrusted to His Apostles.

Distinction 3; Question 1.

Was the Blessed Virgin conceived in sin? The answer is no, for as Augustine writes: "When sin is treated, there can be no inclusion of Mary in the discussion." And Anselm says: "It was fitting that the Virgin

should be resplendent with a purity greater than which none under God can be conceived." Purity here is to be taken in the sense of pure innocence under God, such as was in Christ.

The contrary, however, is commonly asserted on two grounds. First, the dignity of Her Son, who, as universal Redeemer, opened the gates of heaven. But if blessed Mary had not contracted original sin, She would not have needed the Redeemer, nor would He have opened the door for Her because it was never closed. For it is only closed because of sin, above all original sin.

In respect to this first ground, one can argue from the dignity of Her Son qua Redeemer, Reconciler, and Mediator, that She did not contract original sin.

For a most perfect mediator exercises the most perfect mediation possible in regard to some person for whom he mediates. Thus Christ exercised a most perfect act of mediation in regard to some person for whom He was Mediator. In regard to no person did He have a more exalted relationship than to Mary. Such, however, would not have been true had He not preserved Her from original sin.

The proof is threefold: in terms of God to whom He reconciles; in terms of the evil from which He frees; and in terms of the indebtedness of the person whom He reconciles.

First, no one absolutely and perfectly placates anyone about to be offended in any way unless he can avert the offense. For to placate only in view of remitting the offense once committed is not to placate most perfectly. But God does not undergo offense because of some experience in Himself, but only because of sin in the soul of a creature. Hence, Christ does not placate the Trinity most perfectly for the sin to be contracted by the sons of Adam if He does not prevent the Trinity from being offended in someone, and if the

soul of some child of Adam does not contract such a sin; and thus it is possible that a child of Adam not have such a sin.

Secondly, a most perfect mediator merits the removal of all punishment from the one whom he reconciles. Original sin, however, is a greater privation than the lack of the vision of God. Hence, if Christ most perfectly reconciles us to God, He merited that this most heavy of punishments be removed from some one person. This would have been His Mother.

Further, Christ is primarily our Redeemer and Reconciler from original sin rather than actual sin, for the need of the Incarnation and suffering of Christ is commonly ascribed to original sin. But He is also commonly assumed to be the perfect Mediator of at least one person, namely, Mary, whom He preserved from actual sin. Logically one should assume that He preserved Her from original sin as well.

Thirdly, a person reconciled is not absolutely indebted to his mediator, unless he receives from that mediator the greatest possible good. But this innocence, namely, preservation from the contracted sin or from the sin to be contracted, is available from the Mediator. Thus, no one would be absolutely indebted to Christ as Mediator unless preserved from original sin. It is a greater good to be preserved from evil than to fall into it and afterwards be freed from it. If Christ merited grace and glory for so many souls, who, for these gifts, are indebted to Christ as Mediator, why should no soul be His debtor for the gift of its innocence? And why, since the blessed Angels are innocent, should there be no human soul in heaven (except the human soul of Christ) who is innocent, that is, never in the state of original sin.